(c) whether Government propose to conduct a survey on this route, if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was received in September, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the very large shelf of pending sanctioned New Line projects and severe constraint of resources, it is not possible to consider construction of the said line for the present. As such, survey has not been considered necessary at this stage.

Manual maintenance of rail track

3914. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Railway Track are still being manually maintained; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for maintaining the tracks with machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) About 50% of track is maintained manually.

(b) Indian Railways has planned progressive mechanization of track maintenance depending on availability of funds.

Life of pads for rail tracks

3915. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per International standards, the pads for rail tracks should have a life of atleast 15 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that rubber pads of Indian